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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/054,207

01/22/2002

Francois Kermarec

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10/04/2006

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EXAMINER

AVELLINO, JOSEPH E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2143

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/054,207

Applicant(s)

KERMAREC ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph E. Avellino

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-33 and 49-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-26, 30-33 and 49-58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 20-33, and 49-58 are presented for examination; claims 20, and 49 independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 28 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form *including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims*.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 21-25, 30, 31, and 49-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain et al. (USPN 6,765,914) (hereinafter Jain) in view of Bryden et al. (USPN 6,717,944) (hereinafter Bryden).

4. Referring to claim 20, Jain discloses a method of providing a VPN service through a shared network infrastructure comprising a plurality of interconnected provider edge (i.e. switches 120, 130, 140) having customer edge (i.e. hosts coupled via switch ports 123-125, 133-135, 143-145) interfaces, wherein some of the CE interfaces are allocated to a VPN supporting a plurality of VLANs and are arranged for exchanging tagged data frames (i.e. tagged with VLAN-ID) with CE devices respectfully connected

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to the PE devices through said CE interfaces, the method comprising the following steps:

receiving at least one tagged frame from a CE device (i.e. receive a packet with VLAN ID) at each CE interface (i.e. switch port) allocated to said VPN, and learning a correspondence between said CE interface and each VLAN identifier included in the tagged frame (i.e. learning which CE devices belong to which VLAN) (Figure 4, VLANs 401, 402, and 403 have respective identifiers identifying the VLANs).

detecting whether a pair of CE interfaces allocated to said VPN and belonging to two PE devices correspond to a common VLAN identifier (i.e. determining whether a source address and a destination address correspond to the same VLAN) (col. 5 line 43 to col. 6, line 27); and

in response to such detection, establishing a connection (an inherent feature, otherwise the packet cannot be transferred between the PE devices) in the shared infrastructure between said two PE devices 120, 130 for forwarding the frame including said common VLAN identifier (i.e. forwarding the packet to the switch's bus connecting port, which receives the packet, and forwards the packet to the appropriate host) (col. 6, lines 1-10).

Jain does not disclose the connection is a virtual circuit in the shared network infrastructure between said two PE devices for forwarding frames including said VLAN ID, rather if a VLAN ID is not found, the packet is forwarded to all local switch ports and all other switches (col. 6, lines 1-28). In analogous art, Bryden discloses another method of providing VPN services through a shared network infrastructure which

discloses determining a routing to a destination CE device by issuing flooding address resolution requests to all other PE devices to determine where the destination device is, and then establishes a virtual circuit between the two PE devices (col. 6, lines 15-20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Jain with Bryden in order to provide an efficient method of transferring packets, by creating a virtual circuit which efficiently and transparently transfers packets between devices, resulting in a more efficient use of bandwidth, which Jain acknowledges is a problem with the flooding of the packet (Jain: col. 6, lines 25-28 “even at the expense of bus bandwidth”).

5. Referring to claim 21, Jain-Bryden discloses establishing a respective flooding virtual circuit in the shared network infrastructure between each pair of PE devices having at least CE interface allocated to said VPN (i.e. “the local edge node forwards the request to all remote edge nodes in the VPN”) (Bryden: col. 6, lines 15-20).

in response to reception of a first tagged frame including a VLAN identifier at a first CE interface, propagating said first tagged frame on each flooding VC established from the first PE device (“the packet is received by all the other switches”) (col. 6, lines 1-10);

in response to reception of the first aged frame on a flooding VC at another PE device, propagating a frame to each CE device (“each remote edge node that receives the ARP request from the local edge node forwards the ARP request to each CPE node that it supports...”) (Bryden: col. 6, lines 15-30).

6. Referring to claim 22, Jain-Bryden discloses the correspondence between the first CE interface and the VLAN identifier is learnt in response to the reception of the first tagged frame including said VLAN identifier at the first CE interface (i.e. learning the routing and destination of a particular address for a connection) (Bryden: col. 6, lines 50-63).

7. Referring to claim 23, Jain-Bryden discloses allocating, at the first PE device, a first virtual circuit resource for said VPN and the VLAN identifier (i.e. source/destination pairing) included in the tagged frame (i.e. “establishes an IP tunnel to the remote edge node...installs a forwarding entry in its forwarding table mapping the local...virtual circuit to the IP tunnel...” (Bryden: col. 6, lines 50-60);

transmitting a first signaling message from the first PE device to each other PE device having at least one CE interface indicating the first virtual circuit resource (i.e. IP tunnel) and VLAN identifier (i.e. requesting resolution of destination address for the source; “the remote edge node...reserves the remote virtual circuit for the communication path between the destination CPE node and the source CPE node”) (Bryden: col. 6, lines 40-50);

in response to reception of the first signaling message at each other PE device, storing an identification of the first virtual circuit resource in association with said VPN and VLAN identifier (Bryden: col. 6, lines 20-40).

8. Referring to claim 24, Bryden discloses transmitting a second signaling message from said other PE device to the first PE device thereby completing establishment of a VC, defined by the first and second VC resource (Bryden col. 6, lines 50-65).

9. Referring to claim 25, Bryden discloses two VC's are used to forward data in two directions (col. 5, lines 20-25; col. 6, lines 40-50).

10. Referring to claim 30, Jain-Bryden disclose the invention as described in the claims above, however do not specifically limit the amount of CE devices to two or less. However Bryden does show that only one CPE device 102 is connected to an edge node 302 (Figure 3). This would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to put any arbitrary number of nodes on a PE device. By this rationale, "Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and advantages of providing for no more than two CE interfaces is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Jain-Bryden to provide no more than two CE devices in order to provide adequate service to the customer, without requiring numerous connections to various devices.

11. Referring to claim 31, Jain-Bryden disclose the invention substantively as described in claim 20, however do not specifically disclose that the CE interfaces are Ethernet interfaces, however Ethernet is well known in the networking art for interacting with VPNs. By this rationale, "Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and

advantages of providing Ethernet interfaces is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching to include Ethernet in order to include various different networking interfaces, thereby allowing more computers to be connected to the network.

12. Claims 49-54 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

Claims 26, 27, 32, 33, and 55-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain in view of Bryden in view of Fotedar et al. (USPN 6,944,159) (hereinafter Fotedar).

13. Referring to claims 26 and 27, Jain-Bryden discloses the invention substantively as described in claim 24. Jain-Bryden do not specifically disclose the use of MPLS labels and signaling messages for transferring MPLS labels. In analogous art, Fotedar discloses another VPN service provision system which discloses transferring MPLS labels and VLAN ids (e.g. abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Fotedar with Jain-Bryden in order to provide transparent connectivity between nodes in a network as supported by Fotedar (col. 1, lines 30-45).

14. Claims 32, 33, and 55-58 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

Response to Arguments

15. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). It is the *combination* of Jain *in view of* Bryden that provides the claimed invention. By this rationale, the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

16. Applicant employs broad language, which includes the use of word, and phrases, which have broad meanings in the art. In addition, Applicant has not argued any narrower interpretation of the claim language, nor amended the claims significantly enough to construe a narrower meaning to the limitations. As the claims breadth allows multiple interpretations and meanings, which are broader than Applicant's disclosure, the Examiner is forced to interpret the claim limitations as broadly and as reasonably possible, in determining patentability of the disclosed invention. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir.1993). Failure for Applicant to significantly narrow definition/scope of the claims and supply arguments commensurate in scope with the claims implies the Applicant intends broad interpretation be given to the claims. The Examiner has interpreted the claims with

scope parallel to the Applicant in the response, and reiterates the need for the Applicant to more clearly and distinctly, define the claimed invention.

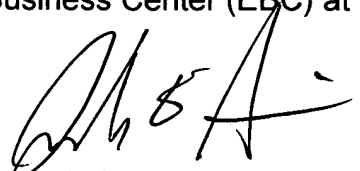
17. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

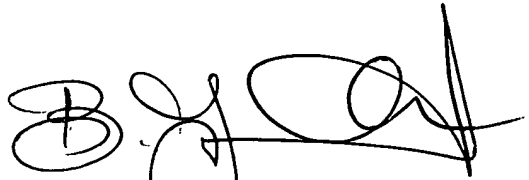
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph E. Avellino whose telephone number is (571) 272-3905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Joseph E. Avellino, Examiner
September 18, 2006



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER